Abstract

An object of the invention is to provide a target travel direction detecting method capable of detecting the travel direction of efficiently detecting the travel direction of a target by using a small amount of information.

The target travel direction detecting method according to the invention generates a lightness image from each of the two color images picked up at predetermined time intervals and causes a template of n by n 105 to scan the lightness image at time t to detect a position where the target is present. Next, the values of pixels around the pixel of the position where the target is detected are stored into the template 105. The template 105 storing the pixel values is used to scan the lightness image at time t+1 and detect a pixel that matches each pixel value of the template 105. Then, the target is plotted for each travel direction at a pixel position matching the template 105 on the lightness image at time t+1 to create a travel-direction-extracted image.

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